

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for processing a message in a network computing system including a facsimile transmission comprised of a recipient contact address and message content, wherein the message content includes at least one of message text and attached files, comprising:
5 managing the facsimile transmission as a fax job in a first computing system;
6 transferring the message content to a second computing system;
7 launching, with the second computing system, at least one application
8 program to convert the message content to at least one image in a file format;
9 transferring, with the second computing system, the converted message
10 content in the file format to the first computing system; and
11 transferring, with the first computing system, the message content in the file
12 format to a communication port for transmittal to the recipient contact address.

1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 transferring, with the first computing system, a job number assigned to the fax
3 job to the second computing system; and
4 requesting, with the second computing system, the message content for the job
5 number, wherein the first computing system transfers the message content in response
6 to receiving the request from the second computing system.

1 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
2 maintaining, with the first computing system, a job table including fax job
3 records identified by job number; and
4 changing, with first computing system, state fields in the fax job records to
5 manage the workflow of the fax jobs between the first computing system, second
6 computing systems, and communication port.

1 4. The method of claim 2, wherein the message including the facsimile
2 transmission further includes sender information for the sender of the fax job, wherein
3 the second computing system generates the content of message text and each
4 attachment into images in the file format; further comprising:

5 using, with the second computing system, the sender information to access fax
6 cover page information for the fax job;

7 generating a cover page image in the file format from the fax cover page
8 information if there is fax cover page information for the sender of the fax job; and

9 transmitting, with the second computing system, the converted fax cover page
10 image to the first computing system.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the file format comprises an image
2 file format, and wherein the message content is converted to one or more images in
3 the file format.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein for each attachment file received from
2 the first computing system, the second computing system further performing:

3 determining one of multiple application programs capable of opening the
4 attachment file; and

5 using the determined application program to convert the content of the
6 attachment file to one or more images in the file format, wherein all the images in the
7 file format comprising the at least one converted attachment file are transferred to the
8 first computing system.

1 7. The method of claim 6, further comprising converting, with the second
2 computing system, the message text to at least one image in the file format, wherein
3 the images comprising the converted attachment files are arranged in a file in the file

4 format according to an order in which they were attached to the message and follow
5 one image comprising the converted message text.

1 8. The method of claim 6, further comprising maintaining, with the
2 second computing system, multiple application programs open to concurrently
3 convert the content of different attachment files to images in the file format.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the different attachment files
2 concurrently converted to images in the file format are part of different fax jobs.

A/ 1 10. The method of claim 6, further comprising using, with the second
2 computing system, one application program to concurrently convert the content of
3 different attachment files associated with the application program to images in the file
4 format.

1 11. A network computing system for processing a message including a
2 facsimile transmission comprised of a recipient contact address and message content,
3 wherein the message content includes at least one of message text and attached files
4 comprising:

5 (a) a first computing system comprising a first processor and a first memory
6 coupled to the first processor;

7 (b) a second computing system comprising a second processor and a second
8 memory coupled to the second processor;

9 (c) a communication port in communication with the first computing system;

10 (d) first program logic residing in the first memory, wherein the first program
11 logic, when read and executed by the first processor performs:

12 (i) managing the facsimile transmission as a fax job;

1 12. The system of claim 11, wherein the first program logic further
2 performs transferring a job number assigned to the fax job to the second computing
3 system and wherein the second program logic further performs requesting the
4 message content for the job number, wherein the first computing system transfers the
5 message content in response to receiving the request from the second computing
6 system.

1 13. The system of claim 12, wherein the first program logic further
2 performs:
3 maintaining a job table including fax job records identified by job number;
4 and
5 changing state fields in the fax job records to manage the workflow of the fax
6 jobs between the first computing system, second computing systems, and
7 communication port.

1 14. The system of claim 12, wherein the message including the facsimile
2 transmission further includes sender information for the sender of the fax job, wherein
3 the second program logic system generates the content of message text and each
4 attachment into images in the file format and further performs:

5 using the sender information to access fax cover page information for the fax
6 job;

7 generating a cover page image in the file format from the fax cover page
8 information if there is fax cover page information for the sender of the fax job; and
9 transmitting the converted fax cover page image to the first computing system.

1 15. The system of claim 11, wherein the file format comprises an image
2 file format, and wherein the message content is converted to one or more images in
3 the file format.

1 16. The system of claim 11, wherein for each attachment file received
2 from the first computing system, the second program logic further performs:
3 determining one of multiple application programs capable of opening the
4 attachment file; and
5 using the determined application program to convert the content of the
6 attachment file to one or more images in the file format, wherein all the images in the
7 file format comprising the at least one converted attachment file are transferred to the
8 first computing system.

1 17. The system of claim 16, wherein the second program logic further
2 performs converting the message text to at least one image in the file format, wherein
3 the images comprising the converted attachment files are arranged in a file in the file
4 format according to an order in which they were attached to the message and follow
5 one image comprising the converted message text.

1 18. The system of claim 16, wherein the second program logic further
2 comprises maintaining multiple application programs open to concurrently convert
3 the content of different attachment files to images in the file format.

1 19. The system of claim 18, wherein the different attachment files
2 concurrently converted to images in the file format are part of different fax jobs.

1 20. The system of claim 16, wherein the second program logic further
2 performs using one application program to concurrently convert the content of
3 different attachment files associated with the application program to images in the file
4 format.

1 21. A signal-bearing medium containing at least one first and second
2 computer programs for processing a message in a network computing system
3 including a facsimile transmission comprised of a recipient contact address and
4 message content, wherein the message content includes at least one of message text
5 and attached files, wherein the first program and second program are executed by a
6 first computer and a second computer, respectively, comprising:

7 wherein the first program is capable of causing the first computer to perform:

8 (i) managing the facsimile transmission as a fax job;
9 (ii) transferring the message content to a second computer;
10 (iii) transferring the message content received from the second
11 computer to a communication port for transmittal to the recipient contact
12 address; and

13 wherein the second program is capable of causing the second computer to
14 perform:

15 (i) launching at least one application program to convert the message
16 content to at least one image in a file format; and

17 (ii) transferring the converted message content in the file format to the
18 first computing system.

1 22. The signal bearing medium of claim 21,
2 wherein the first computer program further performs transferring a job number
3 assigned to the fax job to the second computing system; and
4 wherein the second computer program further performs requesting the
5 message content for the job number, wherein the first computing system transfers the
6 message content in response to receiving the request from the second computing
7 system.

1 23. The signal bearing medium of claim 22, wherein the first computer
2 program further performs:

3 maintaining, with the first computing system, a job table including fax job
4 records identified by job number; and
5 changing, with first computing system, state fields in the fax job records to
6 manage the workflow of the fax jobs between the first computing system, second
7 computing systems, and communication port.

1 24. The signal bearing medium of claim 22, wherein the message
2 including the facsimile transmission further includes sender information for the
3 sender of the fax job, wherein the second computer program generates the content of
4 message text and each attachment into images in the file format and further performs:
5 using the sender information to access fax cover page information for the fax
6 job;
7 generating a cover page image in the file format from the fax cover page
8 information if there is fax cover page information for the sender of the fax job;
9 transmitting the converted fax cover page image to the first computing system.

1 25. The signal bearing medium of claim 21, wherein the file format
2 comprises an image file format, and wherein the message content is converted to one
3 or more images in the file format.

1 26. The signal bearing medium of claim 21, wherein for each attachment
2 file received from the first computing system, the second computer program further
3 performs:

4 determining one of multiple application programs capable of opening the
5 attachment file; and

6 using the determined application program to convert the content of the
7 attachment file to one or more images in the file format, wherein all the images in the
8 file format comprising the at least one converted attachment file are transferred to the
9 first computing system.

1 27. The signal bearing medium of claim 26, wherein the second computer
2 program further performs converting the message text to at least one image in the file
3 format, wherein the images comprising the converted attachment files are arranged in
4 a file in the file format according to an order in which they were attached to the
5 message and follow one image comprising the converted message text.

1 28. The signal bearing medium of claim 26, wherein the second computer
2 program further performs maintaining multiple application programs open to
3 concurrently convert the content of different attachment files to images in the file
4 format.

1 29. The signal bearing medium of claim 28, wherein the different
2 attachment files concurrently converted to images in the file format are part of
3 different fax jobs.

1 30. The signal bearing medium of claim 28, wherein the second computer
2 program further performs using one application program to concurrently convert the
3 content of different attachment files associated with the application program to
4 images in the file format.

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